

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA (Specify Air or Sea Pouch)
AIR

DISPATCH NO.

NAV-H- 3877

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO

DATE

18 October 1951

FROM Chief of Station, Vienna

SUBJECT Chief, FDM
GENERAL
SPECIFIC

Operational

Report on the Israeli IS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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BY AUTHORITY OF
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Reference: VIEN 5916, 5952, 6127, WASH 04535

1. Headquarters' information confirms reports concerning Arthur PIER. According to previous traces, PIER, under the alias Asher BEN NATAH (other aliases: NATHAN, SATUN, Samia, KATZ), was until recently the senior official of Israeli political intelligence, and traveled under cover of Israeli consular inspector. His presence in western European capitals has been reported on several occasions. In an application for a military permit to enter Germany in early 1949, BEN NATAH gave his destination as the Israeli Consulate in Vienna.

2. For your information only, the latest report indicates that PIER alias BEN NATAH resigned his position in the Israeli Service in April 1951, in sympathy with Boris SCHUL (formerly SCHWITZ), who resigned from a top position in the IIS as the result of a serious quarrel with the Director of the IIS Coordinating Board, Reuven SHILOAH. We should appreciate any further confirmation or details of this IIS shake-up which can be provided, as well as additional information on PIER's current activities in Switzerland.

3. The possibility that Michael SCHWITZ's statements were provocation should not be overlooked. Please obtain the background of the conversation in which PIER's name first came up. It struck us as odd that original report contained so much identifying data yet failed to give Arthur's last name.

4. We agree that SCHWITZ may be a potentially valuable source on Israeli activities. We shall be interested in whatever background is developed concerning his activities and how he fits into the IIS picture. If recruited, he might serve as a useful check on our liaison with

(Releasing office)

(Coordinating office)
BT SPS/JA

CHIEF, FDM

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FORM NO. 51-29
JUN 1949

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16-51224-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

95-5-1-66

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006